

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OLC 75-2477/a

75-11696/A

17 OCT 1975

Honorable Alan Steelman
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

NOT-1701-75

Dear Mr. Steelman:

I am in receipt of your letter of 30 September 1975 in which
you ask for a full description of this Agency's [REDACTED]

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As you state in your letter, I am interested in assuring, within the limitations imposed upon me by Congress to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure, that members of Congress are given the facts concerning Agency activities, at least for their own personal information. In the case of an inquiry from a constituent to a member of Congress, I would also like to be as responsive as I can be to insure that the public understands, to the degree possible, the role of this Agency in national security affairs.

Having said the above, however, I must state that there are certain activities of this Agency which cannot be placed within the public domain. To do so would jeopardize not only the objectives of the Agency but also the safety of Agency personnel and contacts. To describe fully this Agency's work in any particular area of the world could possibly lead to just such jeopardy.

Therefore, I feel compelled not to provide the information you have asked for on behalf of your constituent. If you so desire, I would be happy to provide a member of my staff to brief you on the [REDACTED] if this would be of any help. In

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addition, you might want to contact Representative Lucien Nedzi, Chairman of the Special Subcommittee on Intelligence of House Armed Services Committee, with respect to your request.

If I can be of service to you in any other way, please feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely,

~~W. E. Colby~~

W. E. Colby
Director

Distribution:

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